

QATOR ✪ ITRIN

TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

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SIX MONTHS OF THE REPUBLIC

Our Successful Exercise in Freedom

by Miestrâ Schivâ

THE IRISH

CITIZEN

HE'S A DEAN MACHINE

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A QI Exclusive!

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editorial

SIX MONTHS OF THE REPUBLIC

I'm writing this on December 1st (New Zealand time) - six months to the day since the Founding Parents occupied *Wittenberg* and declared the corrupt rule of the House of Rouergue to be over forever. On that day, our founding Dean, Michael Pope, had this to say:

"We, the concerned people of Talossa, are hereby founding the Republic of Talossa, where we can pursue the vision of a democratic nationette, the vision shared by all Talossans but frustrated by the King.... This Republic will be a place where our democratic principles will come to fruition, to build a nationette we can all be proud of."

Is Pope's vision coming to fruition? As far as his hopes for democracy go, then most certainly. Admittedly, the nation doesn't have its permanent constitution and political structure up and running yet. However, this is because we keep tinkering with it, to make sure that it's just right, that no citizen can possibly feel that their concerns were ignored in the constitution writing procedure.

In the meantime, however, we are laying the foundations for a political culture that will undoubtedly serve us well. Our debates over the constitution, while fraught and frustrating at times, have been courteous and have ended in broad consensus. Our rough and ready "direct democracy" system in the Provisional Governing Council is admirably filling the gap until we have an elected leadership.

Our first real election - that for a new Dean - proved that we not only have a voting system that works, but an atmosphere of political competition in which we all remain friends. Let's hope that this carries on when substantive differences over the future of the Republic arise - as they will certainly do.

What of the Republic's non-political life? Every micronation on the planet likes to think of itself as a model political entity - "utopian constitutions" are plentiful and cheap. And let's face it, there are plenty of places which are more friendly and more democratic than the Kingdom of Talossa. But the true achievements of the twenty-five years of Talossa have been el gheltg and a tradition of history writing.

I am proud that *Qator Itrins* has stood at the forefront of the establishment of linguistic and historical progress in the Republic. By reprinting extracts from the fine histories written by citizens Cavéir and Válcadác'h, and by using as much gheltg as is feasible, I like to think that we are the flagship of cultural achievement in this Republic. I hope that we, and our sister paper *Seifetzueascâ*, will continue to serve you and the broader micronational world well for many months to come.■



MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ
Editor / Redactéir

A recording of part of this editorial (in Talossan) will soon appear on Radio Free Talossa.

Ûn aubümicaziun d'iens pärts d'acest editoriál bentôpt apiarha süür Raídió da Talossa Liverescü.

dal redactéir

SEX MESEN DAL REPÚBLICÂ

Eu scrîu acest süür la Calondâ Zecemvár (tîmp da Nouâ Záiphäts)- sex mesen preciadamînt descînd els Parêmts Fundéirs tiennent ocupat *Wittenberg* ès zeclarat el róin corupt del Ca da Rouergue finischescu àl fim. Süür aceastâ ziuâ, ár Provastoûr pirmalaiset, Michael Pope, zireva acest:

"Noi, el popul conçernat da Talossa, perventürâ fundent la Repúblîcâ Talossán, dove povent piersequar la oramâ d'iensâ naziunetâ democrätic, la oramâ partetxadâ pèr toct els Talossâes más ancumbradâ pèr el Regeu... Aceastâ Repúblîca serâ 'n pläts dove ár principäis democrätics venarhent àl ráifâ, fraicar 'n naziunetâ da qèt noi toct povent estarê prideschti."

La oramâ da Pope, vient ça àl ráifâ? Quânt à sieu esperançuns pèr democraçù, pü echidâ. Cunceßadamînt, la naziun non ischù tent complätsmînt funziunînd sieu constituziun parmanînt ès strütür politicál. Com'evri, c'è parç qè noi restent en cufabricînds, controlînds qè c'è corêct à

phînt, qè aucün citáxhien pût poûçiválmînt zirarê qè sieux conceriuns sînt igñhoradâs în la proceßâ da scrîuarê la constituziun.

Ëntarimâ, com'evri, noi colochent las alicerçâs d'iensâ culturâ politicál qî sânc duvitaziun noi servarha ben. Ár zebätsilor över la constituziun, ivèntho conlats ès ancumbrînds da tîmp à tîmp, füvent cortéisen ès finivent în 'n cunçertâ vastâ. Ár süstem selvátic da "democraçù dirêct" în el Cußéggh Governînd Proprièu supstita admiraválmînt txuscâ noi tiennent 'n duceátx electat.

Ár eleziun pirmalaiset vräts - aceastâ pèr 'n noveu Provastoûr - tent prüvat qè noi tiennent non solamînt 'n süstem da votar qî funziuna, más ocsâ 'n vèstuc'h da cumpetaziun politicál în qèt noi toct remáinent amici. Qè noi esperent, qè acest continuarha quând ariçarhent dals ziferençuns sostantiivâs över el fütür dal Repúblîcâ - ès echidâ ça ariçarhent.

Qèt över la vidâ non-politicál dal Repúblîcâ? Cadascù naziunetâ àl eraticâ ama se credarê 'n entità politicál ideál - "las constituziuns utôpiâes" sînt ben vendeschti ès cüpiösen. Ès, qè noi repaxhent, ja plüers plätsilor qî sînt pü amicáis ès pü democrätics qè el Regipäts Talossán. Más els acávamáintschen vrätsilor dels váintsch-simcâ ârs da Talossa sînt el gheltg ès 'n tradiziun da scrîuarê la tgistôriâ.

Eu sînt pridescù qè *Qator Itrins* s'isch presentadâ în el avîntguárd dal cünstavalitâ del progrecéu gheltgmînt ès tgistôric în la Repúblîca. Pèr repúblîcar dals seidâs dals tgistôriâs finâs scrîudâs pèr citáxhiens Cavéir ès Válcadác'h, ès pèr uçar aßéi del gheltg qè si pût, eu améu credarê qè noi sînt el "vaißál del drapeu" del acávamáintsch culturál în aceastâ Repúblîca. Eu esperéu qè noi, ès ár xhurnál sorör *Seifetzueascâ*, continuarhent voi servar ben, ès la comunitâ pü vastâ dals naziunetâs, dürânt plüers mesen fütüers.■

DEAN GRUBER COMES OUT SWINGING

The Republic's first real election campaign has been a success for democracy, with Social Democrat candidate Chris Gruber narrowly defeating incumbent Michael Pope for the position of the Dean of the Provisional Governing Council.

The election, open to all Republic citizens, was the first serious test of the Australian-style preferential voting system, which, according to the Draft Constitution, will be used for electing the President and Senators of the Republic.

Gruber and Pope tied with 33% of the primary vote. However, when second preferences were taken into account, support for other candidates split 3-1 in favour of Gruber, giving him a 58%-42%

"MADISON MUST STEP DOWN"

**Qator Itrins talks to new Dean
Chris Gruber**

Do you have any words for our readers on your election to the leadership of the Republic?

I'm sincerely hoping that this can be the proper transition into the first solid constitutional government in the Republic. My aims are merely to help direct the Republic through this transition, so that it's an easy switch. Everything I will do as Dean should reflect that.

In particular, do you plan to do anything different from your predecessor Michael Pope?

On the whole, not really. Although, I will be available on week-ends. (laughs)

I will be making a few appointments where necessary, but I don't see any major changes. I will say that this new administration will NOT be dealing with other micronations, since we have way too much on our own platters to deal with international affairs. I would request -in fact, order (laughs) - my Ministry of Foreign Affairs to simply a blanket statement to other micros that we are currently pursuing an isolationist agenda. Until we have a solid,

majority over Pope in the final count.

One noteworthy feature of the election was the stronger than expected showing for Peculiarist candidate D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ, who came third with 25% of the vote. If this is translated into Parliamentary seats next year, then Peculiarism will be well and truly "back" as a force in Talossan politics.

With his electronic voting system vindicated, Provisional Secretary Marti-Páir Furxhéir is hard at work drafting an Electoral Act which can be used when the new Constitution is ratified.

As for the Constitution, the Committee has almost completed deliberations on the First Complete Draft, which will be presented to the people of the Republic sometime in the next month. Committeemembers are reported to be "hard at work" making this happen. With most constitutional essentials agreed, the remaining steps towards an elective system of government seem to be a matter of technicalities and wording. ■



**CHRIS GRUBER, new Dean of the
Provisional Governing Council**

working constitutional government in place, we will not be trying to make friends or join any international organisations. If I remain Dean until the constitution is in place, I am firmly committing this government to that task. Internationalism at this juncture is simply going to serve as a distraction. Other developing nations may ultimately require other nations to provide aid during their infancies, but the Republic needs to pull itself up first.

We will, however, be taking a firm stance with regards to the Kingdom. They have dismissed our claims to our territory, but perhaps they need to be made aware of our commitment. Perhaps a claim of victory, complete with

photographs of a government official and a Republic flag? Perhaps a new proclamation? I can't say right now. But there are options and we will have this matter settled before too much longer. As long as the King continues to blatantly violate our sovereignty by appointed fraudulent "governors" of our provinces, we will be forced to deal directly with the issue.

It's our nationette. Whether he and his cabal of toadies like it or not.

Do you intend to run for President if the current draft constitution is ratified?

I certainly intend to give it a shot, although who knows how the public will react to this interview.. (laughs) I would like to attempt a run at the presidency, and I would also like to help the Social Democrats (the PSD) further our causes. The PSD is committed to fair democratic processes and a vibrant, exciting Talossan culture. We're firmly committed to making the Republic as wonderful as she deserves to be.

Where do you think we need to go from here as a cultural entity?

That's a tough one. Cultural unity implies some sort of unity with the Kingdom, or at least avoiding neglect of the culture, the kind of neglect that can often plague a culture if there is a significant split.

The absolute best hope for cultural unity in any happily-imagined form is for the King to step down and get out of the whole of Talossa. As long as he is in the Kingdom, he will do everything in his power to thwart any and all attempts at cultural unity. Short of that, I would suggest that we not treat cultural unity as a futile exercise and instead work toward it.

We'd need to make sure that the language doesn't split into a multitude of versions, like Cornish has in its recent revival. All that a linguistic split can do is guarantee the gap will remain between us and the Kingdom, culturally speaking.

Reaching out to culturally-minded Kingdomites is definitely our best hope for the time being. Making sure that even Kingdomites are welcome in our glheß glheßons forum would be one way. Deferring to the authority of friendly and knowledgeable linguistic Kingdomites like Tomás Gariçéir would also make sure we are complying with the accepted rules of the language.

We will do our damndest to assure cultural unity in any form we can, despite those who might despise such a proposition. ■

six months of the republic - opinion

WHICH IS THE REAL TALOSSA?

By MARTÌ-PÀIR FURXHÉIR

The month of November 2004 marked an important event, the renunciation by Ron Rosáis of his Talossan citizenship. This renunciation gave several Talossans questions about our very identity.

While Ron wasn't one of the most popular citizen of the republic, he had two distinctions that many of the citizens do not have : he was one of the oldest citizens of the former Kingdom of Talossa, and still lives today in Milwaukee, even thought he isn't in the territory of the Republic nor of the new Kingdom itself.

In an exclusive interview with **Seifetziueascâ**, Ron declared : *"I sincerely believe that the Republic has moved away from Humor, Peculiarism, Vagueness and Milwaukee-isms. Its ties to the actual Talossa, the Talossa I knew, are few and consequently, I have renounced my citizenship today."*

This situation isn't without precedent. There has been many tensions between old-growthers living in Milwaukee and Cybercits ever since the former Kingdom opened its doors to its first Internet foreigners, tensions forcing an identity crisis in the nationette.

Is Talossa an Internet Micro-nation claiming a physical territory, or a land-based Micro-nation admitting citizens living outside its territory ?

The question is far from rhetorical, since it affects the very nature of the Republic, and our right to the name Talossa itself.

Ben Madison accused the Republic of breaking its ties to Milwaukee, focusing only on the Internet citizens that have no way to understand the true Talossan spirit, since they don't live within Talossa.

The first criterion for citizenship in a country is usually to reside, or having resided in that country. Doing so enables it's citizens to form a community together. Under that definition, there would only be a single citizen in the Republic of Talossa.



MARTÌ-PÀIR FURXHÉIR is Secretary to the Provisional Governing Council of the Republic of Talossa.

In a micro-nation with online access, it's community can be formed online, but rarely resides strictly online.

Without traveling to Talossa or even outside my province, I have personally met five citizens of the former Kingdom of Talossa and spoken on the phone to almost all of the active citizens, and even many of the inactive ones.

And I am not alone. Many Talossans meet others in person, talk on the phone, and in several cases, even do business together.

But aside from Talossafest, the majority of these interactions occur outside the Talossan soil.

In that case, what is the relationship between the land of Talossa, its residents and Internet citizens?

Ron is right, Talossa isn't the Milwaukee micro-nation he knew in high-school, but does it mean that it is now strictly an Internet club ?

I doubt so. Most Talossans still feel a certain sentimental attachment to

Milwaukee, and want to know what happens in the homeland. Many citizens actually want to visit the city, even if only to see where everything started.

But with only one citizen actually living in Milwaukee, is the Republic of Talossa truly Talossan?

Even today, in the Kingdom's immigration webpage, the following warning is present : *"there are some counterfeit 'talossa' groups that have used our name on the internet to promote their own causes"*.

Four insinuations or plain accusations are included in this simple statement :

1. That we are counterfeit
2. That we do not have a right on the name, Talossa
3. That we are solely on the Internet
4. That we promote our own cause

With fifteen ex-citizens of the Kingdom of Talossa, the Republic isn't a counterfeit, nor are we solely on the Internet, as I have explained above. We didn't start our group to pretend to be the Kingdom of Talossa, we seceded from it.

As for promoting our own cause, we indeed promote 5 main values that are not shared with new Kingdom: Democracy, Freedom, Equality, Respect and Activity.

Democracy. In the Republic, the Court Justices are nominated, like in the Kingdom and most of the democratic countries. However, every other major post is elected, including our head of state. Furthermore, even the Secretary of State office must be confirmed by elected representatives of the population. To add, no unchecked monarch is given the right to appoint the Prime-Minister of the country, like the King did in the Halloween crisis. Furthermore, our voting process is secret, while votes are public in the Kingdom, encouraging pressure on the voters to vote for the King.

Freedom includes freedom from harm, both physical and psychological. It is often said that the freedom of one ends where the freedom of others begin. In the

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Kingdom (both the former and the new one), King Robert I certainly uses his freedom of speech, but in an unchecked manner. He has, and will continue to use, libel, lies, deceit and rhetoric to further his cause, and harm his opponents. The Prime Ministers page [quoted in the last *QI* - ed.] is a testimony to his actions.

Equality is the safeguard of Freedom and Democracy. In a country where one citizen is above the law, the lack of checks and balance has numerous times hurt the people of the Kingdom of Talossa. In the Republic, no citizen has a permanent right to veto, and no citizen requires a complex four-part procedure to be removed from office. And even without our impeachment procedure, our head of state is elected annually, and not nominated for life.

Respect is not a tool. It is a consequence. You cannot force respect between citizens, you get it when your environment provides an opportunity for everyone to voice their concerns in a safe matter, either in their speech, or in their vote. As long as there is a hope for reconciliation and understanding, people try to be respectful. That hope will never be present in the Kingdom of Talossa, due to the inability of Ben Madison to recognize his errors and apologize for his mistakes.

And finally, **Activity**. A real country is its territory, its people, its economic activity.

A micro-nation is the activity generated by it's citizens. One of the key complaints against the King was his use of Pocket votes to increase his voter's base. These citizens would not only decrease the average activity, they also badly hurt democracy by removing the legitimacy of the government (see my article in the last *Qator Itrins*).



I think that in every way, our cause is nobler than the new Kingdom's cause. But do we have the right to name ourselves Talossa ?

As I said before, all the lawful prime-minister of the Former Kingdom of Talossa, with the exception of Quedêir Castighâ, for a far back as January 19th, 1998 have left the Kingdom in protest against Ben Madison. But if you want to turn back in time to the last still active citizen of the Kingdom to have been elected Prime-Minister, that would be Ián A. Metáiriâ, in 1993-1994. Of all the Prime Ministers of the last decade, only Mr. Castighâ is still an active citizen, and his only official activity is to hold a single

seat in their Cosâ.

Most of the workers in the success of the former Kingdom in the same decade have left the country, some never to be heard again, but for the majority of them, to eventually join the Republic of Talossa.

We have has much right to the country as the people in the new Kingdom, since for years, the country has mostly been managed, transformed, kept alive and vibrant in big parts thanks to our efforts.

Therefore, the new Kingdom of Talossa isn't entirely the country the Former Kingdom of Talossa was. It is only a portion of it's past, just as the Republic of Talossa isn't the former Kingdom either.

Which Korea is more entitled to the Korea name? North or South Korea?

Which Germany was more entitled to the Germany name? West or East Germany?

There are now two Talossas. The Talossan nation is split in half, between a free Republic and an oppressive Monarchy. Both have the right to the name, due to their common history.

And neither can prevent the other from using the name. We will have need to learn to coexist, either side by side, or at opposite ends, ignoring each other. ■

Republic vs. Kingdom: A Checklist

by MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHÉIR

The Republic of Talossa, in less than 6 months, has :

- **Published** four issues of the Qator Itrins magazine
- **Published** ten issues of the Seifetziueascâ newsletter
- **Published** articles from other Micro-nations in it's magazines
- Had some of it's articles **published** in other Micro-nations' magazines
- **Produced** several quality radio shows for Radio Free Talossa
- **Produced** or rebuilt over ten different, quality websites, with each several pages

- Started working on the unprecedented **Talossapedia**
- Started to rebuild its **Database** system
- Had vigorous and productive **constitutional debates**
- **Published** three Provisional Registers, containing several laws
- Has conducted a **successful election** for a new Head of State
- Revived **Talossanomics**
- Has **grown** from an initial population of 11, to a population of 26
- **Attracted** over a dozen prospectives and friends.
- **Received** over 5600 messages on its 6 forums, from close to 30 different people.

The Kingdom, in comparison has, in the same period :

- **Published** only 3 new webpages and slightly updated another
- **Published** no magazines or newsletters
- Has received only, as far as I know, **two new citizens**
- Has received less than **five new prospectives**
- Published four Clarks [legislative journals]
- Has not even been able to publish an up to date list of citizens
- Has received a little over 1000 messages, posted by only a dozen of different people. ■

six months of the republic - history

THE HALLOWEEN CRISIS

(*Qator Itrins* is pleased to print an extract from another upcoming History of the Revolution - **A Nation Sundered** by Gödafriêu Válcadác'h.)

“The 2003 Talossan Halloween Crisis” is a term coined by Ben Madison which has come to be an umbrella label for a number of events, or “crises”, occurring from 19 October to 28 November, 2003 with their common thread being a connection to my impending resignation [as Prime Minister of the Kingdom] and/or the recent flakiness of my personal effectiveness as the country’s chief executive.

It could be said with a great deal of authority that the Crisis began in earnest on 25 October, 2003 and had its nadir from that time until 12 November and at last ended with the King’s acceptance of the terms of the Noodle Summit on 28 November, 2003.

It gets a bit complicated.

I made my decision to resign in August, 2003. After much thought, I thought I should first tell the ones who had been my greatest supporters from day-one. I phoned Michael Pope and then spoke with [Progressive Conservative party leader] Ián Metáiriâ. After that, I informed the whole of the PC, and it was decided to get as much of a majority in the Cosâ as possible in the next election, and then let the Coalition know of my intentions.

Yes, this alienated the Coalition, but it was done out of concern of the growing influence of the Black Hand [*la Mha Neágrâ* / MN], a supposedly “niche” party [but in fact the political vehicle of the King - ed].

The PC, or at least a few members of the PC, was seeing a growing desire, conscious or subconscious, on the part of the Creator of Talossa to keep his creation from getting away from him

and to maintain control of Talossa.

The election for the 31st Ziu, the first under [new electoral system] EM200, ended on 14 October thusly:

Grey Congress Party: 48 seats

Black Hand (MN): 96 seats

Progressive Conservatives: 49 seats

ZPT: 8 seats

The MN was five seats short of an absolute majority in the Cosâ. The PC came in second place (barely) and was, for the first time in more than ten years, not the governing party, but the MN had decided to support my governance anyway.

When the story broke on 23 October (before I was able to put together a proper statement to the public about it) about my resignation decision (which would not become effective until some time at year’s end, thereby giving the parties ample time to find my successor), the fun began. My logical first choice, DPM Quedéir Castighlâ of the MN, declined because of his horrendous college schedule (one class in particular)

The MN proposed an unlikely candidate: Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau, whom, because of his past views on Israel as well as his on-again-off-again Talossan activity and his history of jumping from one political party to another over the entire time of his being a Talossan (he was even a PC member at one time until he left over anti-Semitic remarks of his), the Tories soundly rejected.

The MN had a real problem. The bulk of the truly-active people as well as the best-qualified people to serve as PM in Talossa were in the PC and the Grey Congress. When Maxime was rejected, the PC gave the MN another chance to offer someone, and the MN did so in the person of Amy Durnford, whose inactivity and negative attitude toward

the Kingdom was well-known, not to mention the inherent conflict of interest (her being the *Queen*). Although her being PM was perfectly legal under the Organic Law of that moment, we in the PC rejected her as well.

Finally, the MN offered up Wes Erni, who would have been perfectly acceptable except he had no computer and no internet access whereby he could directly communicate with most Talossans by email and Wittenberg. It was his “Amish-ness” and perceived (at least) lack of activity that compelled us in the PC to reject him too.

Finally, [Grey Congress leader] Chris Gruber was chosen as my would-be successor. As the PC had feared, it did not go over well with the MN. As for me, I was floored when the MN rejected Chris as I was still oblivious to the festering venom of Ben.

I named my Transition Cabinet on 9 November, in which Chris Gruber was appointed DPM [Deputy Prime Minister]. However, this came after I, in the most unfortunate move and mistake of my entire administration, had named a temporary “placeholder” Cabinet on 25 October, a Cabinet which named Castighlâ as DPM, caused terrible confusion, and which led to something that never should have been allowed to take place: Ben and Gruber working together on a sensitive political agreement.

The Grey Congress and the Black Hand came together to fashion (and “sign”) the infamous Joint Statement. An extract follows:

We, the members of the MN, wish to state publicly through this Statement that we seek only to participate in a Real Coalition for the government of the Kingdom of Talossa. In a Real Coalition there is no room for secret plots, back-stabbing, double-dealing, and double-crosses. It is our hope that we can jointly govern Talossa in a Real Coalition

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with the PC, MN, and PCG all serving together as equal brother parties.

[...]

Accordingly, we propose that no day-to-day decision be taken in this Coalition Government without the fullest opportunity of each party to consider that decision, and that each party in the Coalition Government shall have equal say in the decision. Each party must be fully informed of the plans of the Government, and each party should assume a separate but equal status, so that each party—the MN, the PC, and the PCG—shall have one single, equal vote in all collective decision-making, and that the majority position shall always prevail.

The Joint Statement was published in [Madison's newspaper] Støtanneu, but there was some confusion as to whether the Grey Congress had signed off on it or not. The Grey Congress made a number of honest mistakes and botched the deal. That's all. It's a shame, really, because it was well-written and a perfectly-reasonable attempt to get me back to my good governance of old and to which Talossa had become accustomed.

That week, the MN left the coalition and went into Opposition, leaving me with a minority government of only the PC and the Grey Congress, for with its seven seats, the ZPT held the balance of power for both sides. By that time, the ZPT included only Gary Cone and the incommunicado party leader Ken Oplinger. The rest of the membership had joined the PC in protest of Ben's behavior of the past few months.

These seven seats, and the question as to who actually owned them and what was done with them, was eventually put under the umbrella term, "Seatgate".

Chris Gruber was named as DPM on 9 November. Using a constitutional loophole, King Robert I dismissed my minority government and Maxime Charbonneau became Prime Minister on 12 November, the ZPT having chosen to side with the MN (no blame to them from this author, by the way).



ANTICIPATING HISTORY: From left to right, Gödafriêu Válcadác'h, King Robert I and Chris Gruber eat at Noodles restaurant in Metropolitan Talossa, 11th June 2003/xxiv.

The abrupt way my first administration was ended was not illegal though some would not agree with me, but it was seen by everyone in the PC as an affront, for Gary Cone, who as the de-facto ZPT leader held the seven Cosâ seats which represented the balance of power between the MN and the PC and Grey Congress. Gary, for sincere reasons of long-standing personal loyalty to the King, and out of a sincere desire to bring stability once more to Talossan government, chose to support the MN, and was made Charbonneau's Deputy Prime Minister.

"Jeffgate", as I now call it, was a major factor in elevating the anger of the future Founding Parents towards Ben and was a major motivation for JP Griffin to be the first to speak of a "Republic of Talossa" in January, 2004, though at that time, the idea of secession or revolution was dismissed by everyone else.

The Noodle Summit held at the end of November between Ián Metáiriâ and the King at *Noodles* restaurant resolved the PMship question permanently and was an acceptable compromise to all parties. Maxime (according to the terms of the Summit

agreement) resigned, but did so earlier than expected, thus Deputy Prime Minister Gary Lee Cone became Prime Minister for exactly four days, I took over once more on 1 December, and Castiglilhâ took over as Prime Minister on 1 January, 2004.

My deposing from the PM's office in November was seen by many in the PC as something short of a coup, and a shoddy way to reward a PM who, if I may say so, had not been boring, my phone line problems having been explained in about the second week of November to the satisfaction of everyone. To the satisfaction of everyone except Ben, it seems...

Ben's rejection of Chris Gruber as my successor was seen by the PC, - including the former ZPT members who had joined us - as an irrational, *petulant* (one of Ben's favorite words), and immature act by someone whose real reasons were based on personal hatred instead of real and objective appraisals of Gruber's ability to lead. After all, in September or October, 2000, the King had awarded Chris the *Per La Naziun*, the Kingdom's highest honor! Surely Chris must have done *something* right.■

An Essay on Micropatriotism

by MÁTHEU ZEILAVALÓNE VÁSROIXE

(The author is Vice-President of the Republic of Lavalon, a micronation which, like our own Republic, formed from a citizen's rebellion against their previous monarchy earlier this year. His essay is printed here for its contrast with Talossan traditions of nation-building. For more information visit <http://www.lavweb.tk/>)

Micro-patriotism is necessary for a successful micro-nation to be formed and for a micronation to continue to prosper. Micro-patriotism must be present among as many citizens of the micro-nation as possible. *Micro-patriotism is inevitably tied to the pervasiveness of the cultural, political, and otherwise esoteric elements of the micro-nation. The citizen will enjoy his citizenship only if there is something to enjoy.*

If culture is "the tastes in art and manners that are favored by a social group", then the micro-nation should have a full set of regalia and customs. Some micro-nations that base their philosophy on extreme libertarianism might be unsuccessful because of their unwillingness to implement a set of customary rules that all citizens should follow.

Within the micro-nation there must be mechanisms designed to ensure that the micro-patriotism of the citizen does not burn out. One such mechanism are the prospects of ranks and promotions. The micro-nation must offer high-up positions to those who are extremely micro-patriotic for a substantial period of time. *For micro-patriotism to remain high, there must be some sort of incentive, such as a "gold status" achievable by the citizens who follow certain rituals or make magnanimous contributions.*

In Lavalon, we have fostered micro-patriotism by creating a system of regalia by which citizens are promoted. We have already appointed two knights of the Order of Lavalon since the Republic was established. That in itself is a contradiction. How can a Republic have Knights? It is my view that the status of knighthood in Lavalon is similar to the status of the Knights Templar in present-day Austria. Knighthood in Lavalon requires a fair amount of achievement, and thus it is an incentive for the citizens to continue playing the "Lavalon game".

Micro-patriotism cannot be achieved without a political basis for doing so. In

Lavalon we have at least three political parties, all left-of-center to varying degrees. Participation in politics and political discussions keeps citizens active and is an incentive for them to keep returning to Lavalon.

In Lavalon we are giving jobs to those who are best at those jobs. Those good at art are sent to the Department of Logos and Regalia Standards to make art for the government. Those who enjoy the life of a diplomat or ambassador are given jobs in the foreign service. Those who like law are given judgeships or jobs as public defenders.

A micro-nation should do whatever it can to make sure that the citizens remain interested, without basic principles. Thus, a citizen who has a high level of participation in a micro-nation is micro-patriotic. If you look at the successful micro-nations, you will see that while they all have certain quirks, they all have something in common: the incredible number of options given to the citizens for their enjoyment. Talossa's and Lavalon's con-languages are examples. There must never be a shortage of projects in which the citizens can choose to participate.■

back by popular demand, it's... WICKED QUESTIONS FOR THE MONTH!

1. Next time the President of the United States decides to invade somewhere that's pissed him off, which way will the Republic's "invincible moral support" go?
2. What body parts would Michael Pope and J. P. Griffin rather bite off than live in

- a country like Lavalon with three left-of-centre political parties?
3. Seeing that the Vice-President of Lavalon lives in a southern state of the USA, does "left of centre" mean "only wants to bomb Third World countries a little"?

4. If Maxime Charbonneau sticks around in the Republic, will we have to start writing a French-Talossan dictionary as a matter of urgency?
5. Should this colum be more rightly called "Wicked Questions" or "Shameless Space Filler For Slow News Months?"

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GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Sâ vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossán!